

Report from the Volunteer Coordinator

A few of our committees need fresh input. If you'd like to help out, please call Robin Leonard (386-7876).

Newsletter: Over a year and a half ago, we put out a plea for new members of the *Forward*. The response was great. But now, many of the new members are moving on to other things. We need a few new people to edit, proofread and do layout. We also need people

who enjoy simple tasks and schmoozing to stuff newsletters (that's usually done the last Thursday of the month).

Oneg: We need one volunteer to help set up and clean up onegs the second Friday of each month. (We already have one volunteer there.) We have people for all other weeks, but we need a pool of backup help. Also, we need someone to keep an eye on the kitchen inventory and either shop for, or find a caterer to provide, the food for Friday nights.

Membership: This committee processes new member applications, welcomes new members by telephone, hosts new member potlucks, greets at Friday night services, staffs the CSZ

booth at community events and much more. They need a few more people to help out.

Adult Education: We have been without a functioning Adult Education Committee for nearly a year. We are lucky that our Rabbi and a few others see to it that we have classes. But this is the job of volunteers, not Rabbi Kahn. Please—we really need your help to put to-

gether a regular schedule of classes, lectures, forums and other educational activities.

Bikkur Cholim: David Shaber and a committee of about ten volunteers visit and assist members and friends in need. The committee could use a few more people—not to attend meetings, but to be on call when last-minute requests come up. Requests are few; rewards are many.

Cookbook Project: Robin Leonard has overseen sale and distribution of CSZ's cookbook, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets*, for the last several years and she needs a break. The job is simple and fun. (By the way, if you don't have a copy of the book, call or visit the office at once!)

HELP!

A New Roof

If you blinked, you missed it, but we have a brand-new roof over our heads. Many of you doubtless noticed the spreading stain on the wall after last year's rains and a leak in our old roof that defied all efforts to locate and patch it. It was, as it turned out, time to replace the whole roof, and so a few weeks ago the old roof was taken off and a new one installed. The Va'ad considered three bids on the job and agreed to contract with the lowest bidder, since all the bidders had excellent reputations and recommendations. The repair, which cost about \$6,000, was funded out of our building fund—an example of your annual building assessment at work. We owe many thanks to our building committee chair, Ellen Gierson, for her hard work in negotiating the bids and supervising the work. So now, let the rains begin...

Introducing Lea Salem

Shalom! My name is Lea Salem and I am the new office manager of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. I moved to San Francisco last year from New York and I have also lived in Israel for a couple of years. My background includes experience in both social service and business, as well as volunteer work in various community institutions. I began working at the synagogue on December 7 and am busy learning just who is who and how things work around here. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to pick up the phone and let me know. Looking forward to hearing from you all...

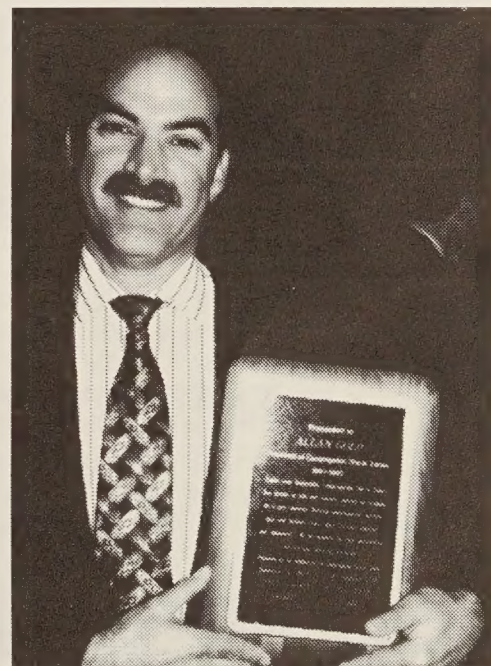
Allan Gold Fundraiser a Success

Over 75 people attended Sha'ar Zahav's cocktail party fundraiser on November 14, which honored Allan Gold as our first two-year-term president. Fundraising efforts surpassed anyone's expectations, raising \$5,400, which is well beyond our goal of \$2,500 to help fund the synagogue's new program director position.

The many guests included Allan's synagogue and non-synagogue friends, along with his beloved parents, Benjamin and Dorothy Gold, who generously agreed to be benefactors for the event.

So many special touches added to the success of the fundraiser. The community room at Park Hill was transformed by a trio of musicians from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Beautiful flower arrangements were provided by designer David Bache (who also designed the flowers for High Holidays). Truly magnificent food was prepared by Mark Taubman-Walker, with delicious desserts baked by Alex Ingersoll, David Stein and Steve Elman.

During a formal presentation, Paul Cohen spoke of how Allan went from
Continued on page 7



The Meaning of an Aufruf

One of our goals at Sha'ar Zahav is to reclaim and renew traditional Jewish rituals and customs. We like old traditions because they're old and link us to history; we like them because often it seems that the gestures and words sanctified through the generations contain a transformative power which we yearn to touch; we like them sometimes because they are mysterious to us. We do not like these same traditions when they are sexist or hetero-sexist — when they are founded on ideas about relationships or community which are not true for us. Sometimes instead of empowering us with their mystery and history, they alienate us. Our goal is always to fully explore and claim our tradition's rich resources while also remaining open to challenging the tradition's teaching. At the same time, we are open to new ritual and new forms which emerge from the organic life of our community. One example of this process has been the ongoing development of Sha'ar Zahav's *aufruf* ritual.

"Aufruf" means "aliyah" and refers to the special aliyah the groom used to receive at the Shabbat morning service preceding the wedding. As at many ceremonies, women were invisible at the traditional aufruf. For many years now, at Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist synagogues, it has been common for both the man and the woman to be called up for an



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

aliyah or for the couple to be called up together. Since the public recognition of the sanctity of our gay and lesbian relationships is a relatively new phenomenon, we have sought to create an aufruf ritual at CSZ which joyously celebrates and affirms the community's support of all our relationships. We observe the aufruf at a Friday (or Saturday) service preceding the ceremony and call up the couple to the bimah for a blessing before the Congregation. If there is a Torah service, the couple is called up for an aliyah. We announce the ceremony date and invoke God's blessing upon this union. If the celebrants are two women, we read the Bible's poem in honor of a virtuous woman, called Eshet Chayil, in a lesbian translation. The most important part of the ceremony, though, is the very last part. Judaism has always taught that our personal and familial occasions should be shared with the entire community. We ask the entire Congregation to rise, join hands, and, as the couple stands under a tallis held up by members of the Congregation, sing the priestly benediction. Of course these ancient words of blessing from the Bible are powerful — even if we don't know exactly what they mean, we know what we intend by them. Even more powerful, though, is the community's outpouring of affection, concern and strength. We share in the celebrant's joy and their joy becomes ours. Finally, we sing "Siman tov u-mazel tov" and toss a shower of candy!

An aufruf at Sha'ar Zahav has become one of the special rewards of being part of this community, whether

we are participating as a member of the congregation or on the bimah. Two Sha'ar Zahav members who were married in October, Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman, recently described theirs:

"Then came the aufruf. Neither of us was quite prepared for that. We knew that we were going to receive some kind of blessing, but just what that blessing would be, and just what it meant exactly, to be blessed — we hadn't really given it that much thought. As we approached the bimah, and a strange expectant silence filled the shul, we could feel ourselves leaving our old lives behind us. We turned to face the Congregation and it was impossible not to believe that something very myste-

Continued on page 13

Alex Rader

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Community

CARVER

January 1994

I am sometimes asked by non-members and by reporters, "Do we really need a gay synagogue now? After all, the Reform movement is so open to gay people now, and (at least in San Francisco) the mainstream Reform temples welcome gay people. In fact, some former members of Sha'ar Zahav now belong to those temples. Isn't this separatist stuff passe?" Indeed, a lovely article on our Congregation published in the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal* went to some lengths to show straight readers just how much like them we are. Are we, I am sometimes asked, in effect putting ourselves out of business by being a force of change and openness?



Tiela Chalmers

First of all, of course, we are *not* a gay synagogue, but rather a synagogue with a special outreach to gay and lesbian people. This phrase used to sound a little silly, but these days it is very true: we are predominantly gay and lesbian, but we welcome everyone, and our congregation grows more diverse and complex all the time.

In addition, as I noted in last month's column, the increasing acceptance of gays and lesbians in mainstream Judaism allows us to be more fully who we are, so that people (of whatever sexual orientation) who prefer the liturgy or organizational style at Temple Emanu-El are free to go there, and those who prefer the Sha'ar Zahav style are free to come here.

But there is still a point to being a largely gay congregation. There has been much progress: in the Jewish community, in the world. But there is clearly still much to do. Some people feel comfortable being the welcomed but still new and different members of a congregation, while others do not. Some feel thrilled at the notion of blazing trails, while others do not always want that role. Sometimes we need to be in the majority.

That dichotomy was vividly illustrated for me recently when I went with one of our past presidents, Paul

Cohen, to speak to the confirmation class at Sherith Israel, one of the two large Reform congregations in San Francisco. The class had been talking about family and sexuality, and their teacher, Rabbi Alice Goldfinger, wanted us to come and speak about being gay, lesbian or bisexual and Jewish.

In some ways, the experience was wonderfully uplifting. For one thing, thank God I'm not 14 anymore. On a more serious note, the relatively liberal attitudes and openness these kids showed was terrific. Paul asked how many had a friend or family member who was gay, and almost half the class raised their hands. That so many knew gay people and readily acknowledged knowing gay people, was truly striking. Their questions and attitudes reflected the fact that they are growing up in the '90's in San Francisco. The kids seemed quite willing to ask questions, and they were fair ones, not homophobic or hostile.

On the other hand, I felt very aware of my status as "other." I felt secure and happy to be able to answer those questions: some of those kids may decide that they are gay, while others will surely meet many gay people throughout their lives. We can only hope that our presentation may have planted seeds to help both groups. I was glad, though, to come back to my Sha'ar Zahav family: a place where I don't need to answer questions or explain my choices. Or rather, a place where the choices I need to explain are about my job, or my opinions about ritual matters, or why on earth I believed that *that* shirt matched *those* pants.

We are a place to come home to, a place for each of us to be fully who we are. Dialogue is a wonderful thing, but here no one should feel that they need to explain their personal choices. We challenge each other's political opinions and thoughts about social justice and the meaning of Torah, but not our sexual orientation or choice.

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December Va'ad Report

The Va'ad Meeting of December 13 opened with Ora Prochovnick's leading our *D'var Torah*. In recognition of the Chanukah festival, Ora discussed the historical origins of the event, and noted how some traditional texts treated the holiday, and how other texts failed to do so. Ora opined that the real miracle was that the people had enough faith to light the lamp in the first place.

Next, Treasurer Gary Sokol led us through a multifaceted financial discussion. In the area of dues pledged and dues received, the Congregation is doing very well. In addition, we have a significant number of new member applications pending. Moreover, the Allan Gold "Hoopla" was a smashing success and resulted in net revenues of \$5400. On the other hand, *pushke* revenues, General Fund donations and Kadimah revenues are running below what we had budgeted. Also, because of increased costs for childcare and onegs, expenses for the High Holidays were above our budgeted figures.

President Tiela Chalmers led the Va'ad from Gary's discussion into a related discussion of expenses and programs which we might want to cut for next year. Gary distributed charts which illustrated our expenses and revenues for a number of existing programs. Although we made no decisions at this time, we looked at ways of curtailing certain programs and strengthening others.

Tiela then went on to share with us news on various important topics. Lea Salem has been hired as office manager, and assumed her responsibilities on December 7. The Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Foundation has awarded the Congregation a grant. The proceeds will be used to organize and present a four-part lecture and discussion series on biomedical ethics.

Lane Schickler and Barney Ugarte spoke on behalf of the Newsletter Committee. They revealed a number of plans to take the *Forward* forward into 1994. Several factors are pointing toward increases in expenses. To help offset some of these expenses, letters will be sent to all members asking them to advertise their services and businesses in the *Forward*. To further cut costs, the Newsletter Committee would like to eliminate the practice of mailing the *Forward* in envelopes. Instead, the *Forward* would be printed with a blank page wrapping it. This page would feature the address label and the return address, and would be sealed or stapled. Provisions would be made for recipients who would have concerns about confidentiality.

Membership Chair Carolyn Pines presented us with the names of 12 new adult members and two children. The Va'ad approved them for membership in the Congregation. Carolyn also announced that the date of the next New Member Potluck will be Sunday, January 23.

Continued on page 9

How To Reach The Officers

The president and vice-presidents are available to talk with you about your ideas or concerns. We look forward to talking with you, but would appreciate doing so at a time that works for our home and work schedules. Here is how to reach each of us:

Tiela Chalmers, president: 431-4312 (please call between 9 am and 9:30 pm).

David Stein, administrative vice-president: 863-4769 (please call between 2:30 pm and 9:30 pm).

In an emergency, the recording on the synagogue office machine (861-6932) will direct you to a service that will know how to find one of us.

Our Va'ad (board) meets upstairs in the library on the second Monday of every month, from 6:30 to about 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have a proposal or a report that you would like to present to the Va'ad, you need to contact Tiela two and a half weeks before the Va'ad meeting in order to get on the agenda.



Look what you missed at the Men's Chavorah D'la'at (Pumpkin) dance!



Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the Forward unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, because such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.

Leonard Goldberg, in honor of attending CSZ services.

Mike Rankin, in memory of Dana Vinicoff's mother.

Paul Cohen & Bob Guterman, in memory of David Greenberg.

Samuel Kaplan, in honor of David Levy, Carolyn Pines and Jeff Forman.

Michael Zimmerman, in memory of Dick Wassenberg.

Betty Kalis, in memory of Esther Kalis.

Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in honor of Judy Schwartz's 40th birthday.

Sara Felder, in honor of Judy Schwartz's 40th birthday.

Shelley Eisenman & Julie Moed, in honor of Pam Erwin's promotion.

Jeffrey Davidson, in memory of Regina Rottenberg.

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Richard Inlander's birthday.

Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in honor of Sara Felder's birthday.

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman, in memory of Sherman Kalis.

David Rosenthal, in honor of their move to Boston.

Ami Zusman, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

General Fund — High Holidays

Susan Amdur

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Lonnie Darwin

Peter Freed

Barak Gab

Abigail Goldman

Sharon Heath

Susan Kahn & David Kaskowitz

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Lolma Olson and Beth Reed

Nais Raulet

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Jerry Rosenstein

Scott A. Shafer

Miriam Simos

Laura Stuchinsky

Cornelia Stuchinsky

Debora Sue Stickler

David Talcone

Lisa Yufit

Kadimah Fund

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman, in honor of the birth of Michael Aaron Portman.

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman, in honor of the birth of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Library Fund

Joe Hample

Elaine Holliman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rabbi Elenor Smith, in honor of Rabbi Kahn's life-giving work.

Susan Gelmis & Ilene Dick, in honor of Rabbi Kahn on the occasion of their wedding.

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Richard D. Wright.

Michael Kay, in honor of George Kay's yartzheit.

Ron Lezell, in honor of the birth and naming of Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky.

Jeanette Shalov, in honor the birth and naming of Sahar Gradolph-Godner.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Anniversaries

- 1 Lawney Baldwin & Tony Vernola
- 12 Bobbi McGhee & Billie Ray McGhee
- 16 Ida Kuluk & Susan Spott
- 23 Steven & Trudi Hauptman
- 24 David Finacom & Shoshana Friedkin
- 31 Allan Gold & Gary Glasser

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Nathan Robinson, Ellen Goldstein, instructors; "Lena Wayback" and friends.

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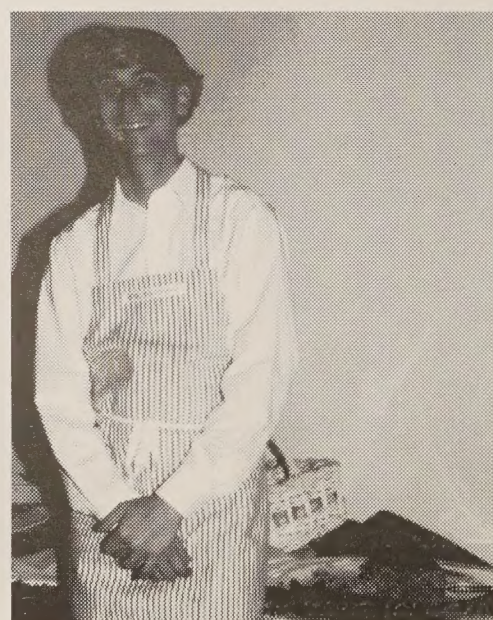
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Michael Zimmerman
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Nathan Robinson, Ida Kuluk, Judy Schwartz, Mark Mackler, organizers of Hoopla.



Mark Taubman-Walker, chef for Hoopla.

Allan Gold Hoopla

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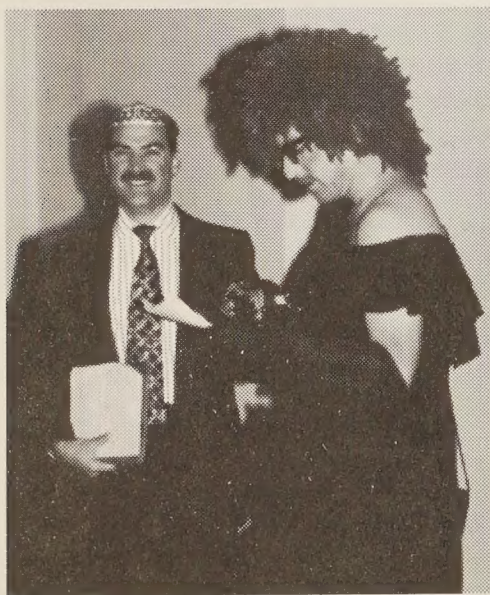
being a "Sha'ar Zahav widow" to becoming treasurer of the synagogue. President Tiela Chalmers pointed out that the legacy of Allan's presidency included a new tradition of debating the exact color of announcement sheets at services. She also credited Allan with creating a highly effective model for facilitating "group process" for synagogue leadership.

After accepting a commemorative plaque, Allan thanked everyone who supported him during his time as president, and movingly spoke of his love for Sha'ar Zahav and how much he had gotten out of serving as president.

The surprise of the evening was the arrival of "Natasha Rubenstein" of the "Drag Board of America" (DBOA). After recounting Allan's many "drag" contributions to Sha'ar Zahav (and the world), Ms. Rubenstein presented Allan with DBOA's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award — a stunning tiara which Allan proudly wore for the duration of the party.

The fundraising event was coordinated by a hard-working committee that included Ida Kuluk, Mark Mackler, Nathan Robinson, and Judy Schwartz. The committee would like to thank the following people for their help making the fundraiser such an unqualified success:

Administrative Assistance:
David Couch, Jesse Freund.



Natasha Rubenstein presents award to Allan Gold.

Childcare:

Evan Kuluk, Max Rosoff Nichols, Margaret Rosoff.

Facility: Michael Zimmerman.

Event Volunteers:

Phil Charney, Paul Cohen, Jonathan Comisar, Pamela Erwin, Ellen Gier-son, Bob Gutterman, Sarah Nathe, Jeannette Nichols, Carolyn Pines, Lane Schickler, Susan Spott, Susan Tubbesing, Susan Unger.

Floral Arrangements:

David Bache.

Food:

Coordination and Preparation: Mark Taubman-Walker.

Additional Help: Todd Taubman-Walker.

Baked Goods: Steve Elman, Alex Ingersoll and David Stein.

Beverages: Michael Zimmerman.

Chocolate Donations: Joseph Schmidt Confections, See's Candies, Jeanette and Jack Kadesh.

Wine Consultant: Gary Sokol.

Invitations:

Design: Daniel Schwartz.

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Location Coordinators:

Susan Unger and Pam Erwin.

Music:

John Kaboff, Angeline Branson, Meg Suzuki.

Presenters:

Paul Cohen, Tiela Chalmers, Natasha Rubenstein.

Assistants to Ms. Rubenstein: Dan Cantrell (Capezio), Jacob Robinson.

Publicity:

Sharyn Saslafsky.

Strategy:

Tiela Chalmers, Paul Cohen, Yoel Kahn, Michael Zimmerman.

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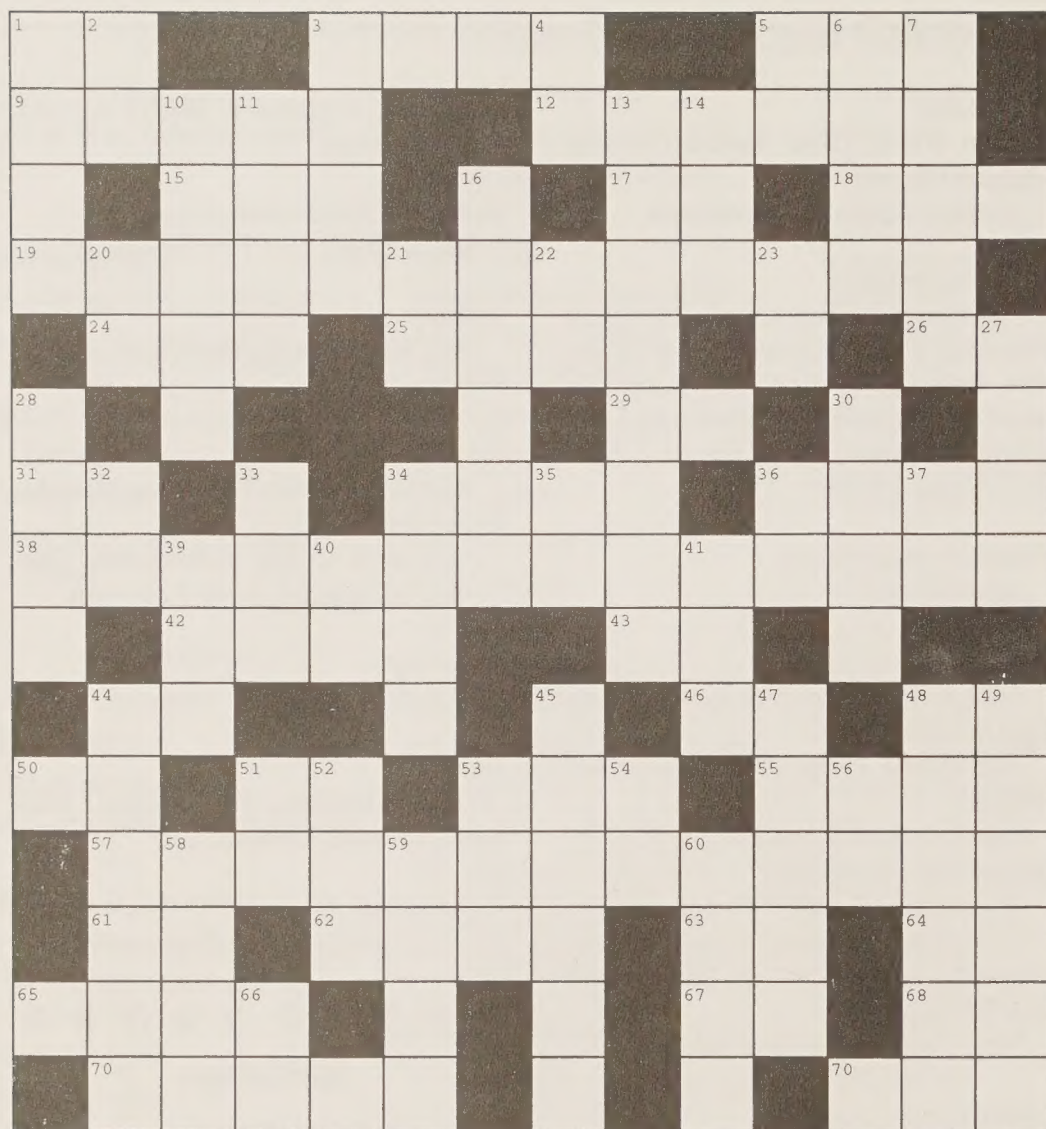
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- 1 Desmond Bernstein
- 2 Keith Barton
- 2 Benjamin Rainero-DeHann
- 4 Judith Baer
- 4 Maggie Rochlin
- 5 Rebecca Tarin
- 6 Nathan Robinson
- 7 Andrew Thal
- 9 Max Rossoff-Nichols
- 10 Peter Altman
- 11 Ellen Gier-son
- 12 Florence Nacamulli
- 12 Tiela Chalmers
- 13 Lisa Brand
- 19 Mike Rankin
- 19 Ellen Lewin
- 21 Maia Ettinger
- 25 Mischa Singer-Fierer
- 25 Neil Hart
- 27 Tali Buchman
- 28 Alexandra Blachman-Gentile

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Puzzle by Joe Hample

Across

1. ____ b'Shevat
3. Letter on a mezuzah
5. ____ Ba'omer
9. Last word of the shehecheyanu
12. Kind of voice or culture
15. Bullfight cheer
17. What hu means
18. Writing fluid
19. Hebrew poet and philosopher (1075?-1141?)
24. Evil computer in a sci fi movie
25. Signify
26. Alien who phoned home
29. Abraham's birthplace
31. "____ shucks"
34. "____ humbly with thy God"
36. Cain's brother
38. Hadassah founder (1860-1945)
42. Politician Abba
43. The (Heb.)
44. Krypton
46. Thanks, in England
48. Kind of in. or ft.(volume)
50. "____ Susannah"
51. Mercury, to a chemist

53. ____ mitzvah
55. Yoel
57. Pioneer of Reform Judaism (1810-74)
61. Zinc
62. Standard
63. Recreational vehicle
64. Venus ____ Milo
65. ____ Shem Tov, founder of Hasidism
67. Initials of Israeli airline
68. Each (abbr.)
69. Mother of Ya'akov and Esav
70. Stopoff en route to JFK

Down

1. "____ shall beat their swords..."
2. United Artists
3. Outbuilding
4. U.S., Can. and Mex.
5. East of N.Y.C.
6. See 14 Down
7. Bottle-dwelling spirit
10. Mystical book
11. Month before Rosh Hashanah
13. Festival of lights

14. Israeli city, with 6 Down
16. Month containing a tree festival
20. What do you say?
21. "I ____ the Lord your God"
22. The (Heb.)
23. Person who never appreciated you properly
27. Narrated
28. CSZ's parent org.
30. A woodwind
32. What anachnu means
33. Globe
34. Traveled
35. He reports to a Capt.
36. Between CA and NM
37. God (Heb.)
39. ____ Tamid (eternal light)
40. Between MN and MO
41. ____ shiva (grieved)
44. Subject of a Turkic Jewish kingdom in the Middle Ages
45. Between Sivan and Av
47. Rabbi killed by Romans
48. Hebrew school
49. Ignored by book lovers
51. Sixty min.
52. ____ Eden (paradise)
53. ____ Kochba, general who fought Romans
54. Type genus
56. Silver
58. ____ Yisra'el (children of Israel)
59. Israeli dance
60. ____ Shabbat (Friday night)
66. V times XI

Answers on page 13

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gift Shop



Friday nights, 7:30-8:05 pm

Rainbow Clinic Serves Our Families

The Rainbow Clinic at UCSF is a pediatric clinic for children ages 0 to 18 with lesbian and gay parents. Health care is provided by lesbian and gay medical practitioners in a sensitive and supportive environment.

New: Support group for children, ages 10-18, with lesbian and gay parents. The group will meet biweekly.

Study of adolescent children of lesbian mothers: Lesbian researcher at UCSF is looking for children between the ages of 11 and 18 who have lesbian

mothers and who wish to participate in a new study of the development of children in lesbian-headed families. Participants will share their experience of "coming out" to peers about their families. Study participants will receive compensation. This study is funded, in part, by the Lesbian Health Fund of the Association of Physicians for Human Rights.

For information, to make an appointment or to join the support group or study, call Tamar Gershon, M.D., at 476-1777.

December Va'ad

Continued from page 4

Rabbi Kahn covered a number of topics in his Rabbi's Report. He will be attending the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis meeting in early January. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah class will be having a Shabbaton near Pt. Reyes in January. The HIV-positive support group is now meeting monthly, and anyone who would like to be on the mailing list should contact the Rabbi or the CSZ office. Finally, the Rabbi noted that many of our prayerbooks are in a state of disrepair, and called for the Ritual Committee to take some corrective measures.

Toward the conclusion of the meeting, Tiela spoke for all of us in expressing her regrets that Susan Unger has stepped down as Program Vice-President. The Va'ad also expressed its thanks to Joe Hample and the Chanukah party committee.

The Va'ad Meeting adjourned at 9:45 with a Hora-like rendition of *Oseh Shalom*. A closed session followed.

—Mark Mackler, Recorder

Winter/Spring Adult Education Program

CSZ and Lehrhaus Judaica are co-sponsoring two evening courses and a one-day Hebrew workshop beginning around February 1. Classes will be held in the CSZ library. **Both evening classes meet on nine successive Tuesdays beginning February 1**, and cost \$60 for the general public and \$40 for CSZ members. To register, call Lehrhaus at 510/845-6420.

Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew IB

Teaching the essentials of biblical and prayerbook Hebrew, this course aims at basic competency in reading as well as understanding the root meaning of words in Hebrew texts found in weekly religious services. Prerequisites: reading knowledge of the *aleph-bet* and vowels, and an understanding of Hebrew syntax regarding nouns, verbs, number and gender. *Taught by Phyllis Mintzer, 7:15—8:30 p.m.*

Modern Jewish Philosophies

An exploration of the different approaches of the major movements within modern Judaism to basic philosophical questions, including excerpts from the writing of Heschel, Borowitz,

Mordecai Kaplan, and Judith Plaskow. A course for both Jews and non-Jews who want to enrich their basic knowledge of Judaism. *Taught by Phyllis Mintzer, 8:30—9:45 pm.*

Hebrew in One Day

Introduces the student to the *aleph-bet*, vowels, and essential pronunciation and sightreading skills. Using games, songs and other techniques that make learning a pleasure, the class gives the student the ability to read the texts of the prayerbook, Bible or simple modern Hebrew. A perfect beginning for studies that will lead to reading comprehension. *Taught by Anat Wolins of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Sunday, January 30 only, 10 am – 4 pm. \$35 with lunch, \$30 without lunch.*

Naches

To **Bonnie Weissberg and Rebekah Sutin**, on their December 18 wedding.

To parents **Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz** and brother **Josh**, on the birth of Mara Shuster Lefkowitz.

To **Judy Macks**, on the birth of Sophie Rose Macks.

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CSZ members, new and old ...

Don't miss the next

New Member Potluck!

*Sunday, January 23**

4-7 pm

at the home of

*Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Dan Bellm, and Adam
61 Ford Street*

(between 17th and 18th Streets and Noe and Sanchez)

*Please bring a vegetarian dish and be prepared to
schmooze, schmooze, schmooze!*

Any questions, call Carolyn Pines 510/532-9661.

**Note: This is NOT Super Bowl Sunday!*

Chanukah Thanks

Hugs and kisses to all who worked on the Chanukah party, especially the following. It couldn't have happened without you.

Strenuous Kitchen Labor:

Carol Cabell, Anton Loman, Gordon Osser.

Food:

Michael Chertok, coordinator; Steve Elman, Mitchell Feuer, Jeff Friedman, Sara Haber, Lisa Halton, Laureen Kim, Forrest Kincade, Evan Kuluk, Ida Kuluk, Michael Latz, Alan Michels, Donna Rabinowitz, Dave Rosen, Andy Schwartz, Susan Spott.

Decorations:

Lee Grupsmith, coordinator; John Bachert, Alison Cohen, Jeff Dennis, Tess Johnson, Kim Nemirow.

Tickets:

Linda Gordon, coordinator; Aliza Amar, Rose Katz, Stan Kern, Allyce Kimerling, Nathan Kling, Frances Rotolo, Lane Schickler, Carol Seajay, Ivan Vincente.

Music:

Linda Gordon, coordinator; Randy Schiller, Jonathan Goldman.

Ritual:

Jonathan Funk.

Raffle:

Edward Pollock, Steve Elman.

Publicity:

Sharyn Saslafsky.

Volunteer Recruitment:

Robin Leonard.

Child Care:

Akiva Chandler.

Administrative Support:

Jesse Freund, David Couch.

Advice and Encouragement:

Tiela Chalmers, Shelley Eisenman, Nathan Robinson.

—Joe Hample

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

David J. Blumberg

Mark Bowers

Akiva Chandler

Michael Chertok

Daniel Grossman & Linda Gerard

Dannette Kahn & Dianna Kahn

Catherine Lyons & Sophie Lyons

Jacob Robinson

Gwen Shelton

Sandra Zeichner & Jeremy Shai

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.



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New Donation Opportunities

Most of our members are aware that there are many ways to contribute to Sha'ar Zahav, including gifts of time, hard work and skills, as well as monetary donations to our general fund or one of our restricted funds (such as Torah, AIDS, Prayerbook or Building). But many may not know that larger donations may be made by dedicating specific ritual or architectural items in the synagogue. Suggested donation amounts are assigned to these items, above the actual cost of the item. This additional donation goes to the synagogue Endowment Fund, which is de-

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, non-members will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

Chair: Lane Schickler (255-9679)

Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Joe Hample, Judy Heiman, Richard Inlander, Betty Kalis, Rose Katz, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Carolyn Pines, and Ivan Vincente

Photography: Michael Bettinger

Advertising: Barney Ugarte

Distribution: Liz Goodman (coordinator), Joe Hample, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein

Typesetting: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

Printing: Lou Greene

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

signed to provide for the future stability of our congregation. We may use the interest generated from this fund for special needs, while we maintain the principal as security for the future.

The Bequests and Donations Committee recently met to assign donation amounts to several new ritual items. We have recently acquired new High Holiday Torah covers, and are in the process of having new covers made for year-round use. The synagogue will soon have three sets of Torah crowns, or rimmonim, for our three Torahs. The dedication amounts established for these items range from \$750 for the small Torah covers to \$1500 for the large Torah cover and rimmonim. As donations are received, the donors will be acknowledged on a permanent plaque. For those who wish to make an even more generous donation or bequest, we have items whose dedication costs range from \$2000 to \$25,000. Please contact the Bequest and Donations Chair, Richard Inlander,

through the synagogue office if you are interested in making any donation. All members are encouraged to ask for our brochure "Giving to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav" for further details about donation options.

Telegenic Ark

As most of you no doubt know, we are the proud owners of a beautiful new portable ark which made its debut during the High Holidays. Our new ark was next seen and admired by thousands when it was used by the UAHC Biennial Shabbat morning services in October. (Because it remained on the bimah, it actually appeared on CNN as a fitting backdrop for Hillary Rodham Clinton's speech!)

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution by our member Charles Norton, who underwrote the costs of construction for the new ark, and our member Ed Tanovitz, who designed it.

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Forward Considering Mailing Changes

One thing we are conscious of as members of the *Forward* staff is how expensive it is to put out a monthly newsletter. And so we have been discussing ways to raise revenue and cut back our expenses.

You've probably noticed the increased number of ads; this has brought in much money, thanks to the hard work of Barney Ugarte.

Now we are considering another change in order to save money: *mailing the Forward without an envelope*.

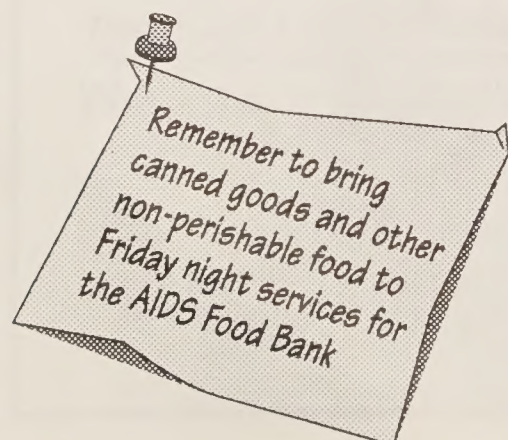
What we'd like to do is place a blank piece of paper over the back page of the *Forward* and then fold it so that only the blank page shows. We'd then staple or otherwise seal the newsletter closed.

Saving money is not the only reason to make this change:

- The newsletter stuffing committee would save a lot of time.
- The *Forward* was originally placed in an envelope because the majority of our members were not out of the closet. As Rabbi Kahn said, however, at the Va'ad meeting where this was discussed, "Most of our members now live openly as lesbians and gay men. They would probably welcome the opportunity to receive the *Forward* without an envelope."

Of course, we recognize that there are members who have confidentiality concerns and cannot or do not wish to receive the *Forward* without an envelope. And we would certainly send these members their copy of the *Forward* in an envelope, just as it is sent now.

If you would prefer to continue to receive the *Forward* in an envelope, please call the synagogue office and tell our new office manager, Lea Salem. Your responses will determine how we will proceed.



Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn (861-6932)

Officers:

President, Tiela Chalmers (431-4312)
Administrative Vice President,
 David Stein (863-4769)
Program Vice President,
 open
Treasurer, Gary Sokol
Recorder, Mark Mackler

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Chamey
 Daniel Chesir
 Ida Kuluk
 Ron Lezell
 Carolyn Pines
 Ora Prochovnick
 Nathan Robinson
 Lane Schickler
 Susan Tubbesing

Office Personnel:

Office Manager, Lea Salem
Rabbi's Secretary, David Couch

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin and Bill Goldstein
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Brotherhood, Barney Ugarte
Building, Ellen Giersen
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, Lisa Katz and Roz Fuerman
Education, open
Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander

Finance, Brett Trueman
Fine Arts, Alice Prussin
Fundraising, Michael Zimmernan and Ellie Cohen
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Leadership Development, Irene Ogus
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Carolyn Pines
Newsletter, Lane Schickler (255-9679)
Oneg, Debbi Jacobs-Levine
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, David Stein
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Religious School, Trudi Hauptman
Ritual, Frank Yellin
Social Action, Stan Kern
Social Program, by committee
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Liaison, open).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Brotherhood Work Day

On November 20, members of CSZ's Brotherhood and our friends sponsored a work day at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. Participants included Howard Goldberg, Mike Whitman, Mike

Kay, Stephan Howard, Geoff Benjamin, Walter Garcia, Richard Derbyshire and Ben Brody. We look forward to doing this again in the next few months. Watch for details. All men and women are invited!

Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

rious and wonderful was about to happen. Then you took the tallis from your shoulders and draped it over our heads, enfolding and uniting us under those few square yards of linen, your face so solemn and tender, and it was at that moment that we both understood the power of blessing. Our hearts raced, we heard the blood in our ears, the sound of your voice; and holding hands, pressed together, sheltered under a kind of invisible tallis of prayer

and tradition, we began to be married. Nothing that came afterward moved us more. When the Congregation burst into song and showered us with all that bright candy, we laughed and cried and held onto each other like a couple of immigrants after a long and difficult voyage, having arrived at last in the country of our love together. It had the feeling of culmination, not only of the months of anxiety and work that led up to the wed-

ding, but also of our first year at Sha'ar Zahav. We had always felt welcome; now we felt loved. We had always felt proud and lucky to be members; now we felt blessed."



Classified

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY to discuss books, plays and films? To exchange your views on art, politics and contemporary culture? Then join writer/educator Susan Sobel-Feldman's ongoing discussion group, *The Literati Circle*. This group meets twice a month in Susan's Richmond District townhouse for lively analyses of stories, poetry, essays, plays and whatever else strikes our relevant fancies. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per meeting. For more information, call Susan (668-2272).

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored onegs in December:

- 12/3 Lyssa Friedman & Daphne Stuart, in honor of Michelle & David Auerbach Brode for their contributions to CSZ and their move to New York.
- 12/17 Rebekah Sutin & Bonnie Weissberg, in honor of their wedding.
- 12/31 Marsha and Blanche Blachman, in honor of the yahrzeit of their father Ben.

Dr. Diane Sabin

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JANUARY

טבת-שבט

1 Saturday 18 Tevet	10 Monday 27 Tevet • 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting	18 Tuesday 6 Shevat	25 Tuesday 13 Shevat
2 Sunday 19 Tevet	11 Tuesday 28 Tevet	19 Wednesday 7 Shevat	26 Wednesday 14 Shevat
3 Monday 20 Tevet • 6:30pm, Healing Service	12 Wednesday 29 Tevet • 7:00pm, Newsletter editing	20 Thursday 8 Shevat • 7:00pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting • 7:00pm, Long Range Planning Committee meeting	27 Thursday 15 Shevat Tu B'Shevat • 6:30pm, Ritual Committee • 7:00pm, Newsletter distribution
4 Tuesday 21 Tevet	13 Thursday 1 Shevat • 7:00pm, Children's Education meeting	21 Friday 9 Shevat • Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class Shabbaton • 8:15pm, East Bay Service • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Ora Prochovnick and Jody Reiss	28 Friday 16 Shevat • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Rabbi Kahn and Ruth Schoenbach
5 Wednesday 22 Tevet	14 Friday 2 Shevat • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Rabbi Kahn and Steve Weitz	22 Saturday 10 Shevat • 9:30am, Kadimah	29 Saturday 17 Shevat • 9:30am, Kadimah
6 Thursday 23 Tevet • 6:30pm, Dues Committee	15 Saturday 3 Shevat	23 Sunday 11 Shevat • 4:00pm, New Member Potluck	30 Sunday 18 Shevat • 10:00am, Hebrew in One Day • 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch
7 Friday 24 Tevet • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Jonathan Comisar and Aziza Khazzoum	16 Sunday 4 Shevat	24 Monday 12 Shevat	31 Monday 19 Shevat
8 Saturday 25 Tevet • 9:30am, Kadimah • 10:30am, Shabbat Service	17 Monday 5 Shevat Martin Luther King Day— Office Closed • 6:00pm, Healing Service • 7:00pm, Newsletter layout and proofreading	Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.	
9 Sunday 26 Tevet			

FEBRUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, JANUARY 3

To place a display ad, call Barney Ugarte (386-2472).

To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JANUARY 10

No late submissions will be published without a deadline extension arranged in advance with the newsletter chair. Any CSZ member may submit a typed, double-spaced article by mail or fax (861-6081) to CSZ, Attn: Gaily Forward.

East Bay Services

- 1/21 Shelley Spiro and Gabrielle Kassner's, 2431 Burlington, Oakland, 520/482-5967.
- 2/18 Ed Tanovitz's, 1612 East 38th St., Oakland, 510/482-4825.
- 3/18 Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott's, 4042 Maple Ave., Oakland, 510/530-4673.